09/21, 10:00 AM

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CONFIDENTIAL
TELECOPY MESSAGE

TO: Ex. Jacob Meek

DATE: September 18, 2004

FROM: Russell D. Culbertson

PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

RE: 09/631,716

FAX NO.: 571-271-3013

OUR FILE NO.: AUS9-2000-0284-US1

MESSAGE:

AGENDA FOR PROPOSED TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Examiner Meek,

I would like to discuss the following topics in the telephone interview now set for 10 a.m. EDT on Tuesday September 21.

I. The objections

a. The claims section of the application is currently entitled simply "CLAIMS." This section heading is not objectionable.

b. The present claims properly use the transition term "including" rather than the equivalent transition term "comprising." The use of the transition term "including" is not objectionable.

II. The proposed claim amendments

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling the system supply voltage in a system utilizing a spread spectrum clock signal, the apparatus including:

(a) a modulating arrangement operatively connected to apply a first modulation to one of the system supply voltage or a clock signal frequency for the system, the first modulation varying the one of the system supply voltage or clock signal frequency about a nominal value for the one of the system supply voltage or clock signal frequency; and

(b) a corresponding modulating arrangement operatively connected to apply a

CONSIDER AMENDMENT, OVERCOMES PRIOR ART REJECTION
- POINT OUT NOMINAL VALUE, AND MODULATION RANGE IN SPEC

corresponding modulation to the other one of the system supply voltage or the clock signal frequency, the corresponding modulation varying the other one of the system supply voltage or the clock signal frequency about a nominal value for the other one of the system supply voltage or the clock signal frequency.

10. (Currently amended) A spread spectrum clock system including:

(a) a spread spectrum clock source having a frequency modulation input and providing a clock signal;

(b) a power supply circuit providing a supply voltage output;

(c) a modulating arrangement operatively connected to apply a first modulation to one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal, the first modulation varying the one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal about a nominal value for the one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal; and

(d) a corresponding modulating arrangement operatively connected to apply a corresponding modulation to the other one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal, the corresponding modulation varying the other one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal about a nominal value for the other one of the supply voltage output or the frequency of the clock signal.

17. (Currently amended) A method for providing a spread spectrum clock signal for a circuit, the method including the steps of:

(a) modulating a power supply signal for the circuit at a first modulation to vary the power supply signal about a nominal supply voltage; and

(b) modulating the frequency of the clock signal for the circuit at a corresponding modulation to vary the frequency of the clock signal about a nominal clock signal frequency.

III. The cited art

The current claim rejections rely on U.S. Patent No. 5,787,294 to Evoy. This patent discloses a programmable power supply and a programmable frequency generator capable of providing different outputs under the control of data supplied over a common bus. A power management unit controls the power supply and clock frequency based on conditions of the processor and other system components. There is no suggestion in the reference that either the power supply voltage or clock frequency are modulated about a respective nominal value, and certainly no suggestion that the supply voltage and clock frequency are modulated in any corresponding way about respective nominal values.

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